COWPENS CORRAL

A publication for friends and family of USS COWPENS CG 63

http://www.cowpens.navy.mil/

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ANNUALEX 2005

In November, COWPENS participat in ANNUALEX with the Japanese Self-Defense Force. In addition to valuabl training, ANNUALEX gave us the opportunity to build relations with one of our closest allies in the Pacific.

The military assets involved were divided into two opposing forces. Each force had an opportunity to work out logistics and tactics with each other; that, without this exercise, they would never have the chance to do. COWPENS was able to test new systems capabilities and put training teams through the paces and garner much needed experience.

Along with other Seventh Fleet ships, COWPENS participated in maneuvering drills with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force. COWPENS Junior Officers gained invaluable ship handling hallenging, dynamic, nvironment. A valuable ation and as had by all.

Personnel exchanges between US and Japanese forces provided an opportunity for a broadened perspective between participants in many warfare areas and cultural differences. COWPENS provided a Junior Officer (ENS Garrow) to cross deck as well as sponsored a Japanese Sailor (ENS Suzuki) for a week.

One challenge of such joint exercises is communications, both from the perspective of language barriers and network infrastructures. Despite these barriers, communication was excellent and many challenges were overcome.

Each year of ANNUALEX provides a new opportunity to learn and improve

Captain's Comments by Captain John J. Sorce

Greetings again family and friends of the Mighty Moo.

As we are getting close to the completion of this calendar year, I would like to summarize our last few months. In August, COWPENS entered a maintenance availability period in which we conducted an incredible number of equipment upgrades and repairs. The scope of work was large, budgeted at nearly $3 million. The ship came out of the availability leaner, meaner and as combat ready as she has ever been. Also during this period we were able to send a number of Sailors to off ship training, and we even managed to give a few folks some well earned leave.

COWPENS came out of the maintenance period, quickly refueled, rearmed and then partook in a major exercise called ANNUALEX. This exercise included all ships in the KITTYHAWK Strike Group and nearly all platforms in the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force. It was an impressive display of what each of our military forces can do in a combined operation.

We wrapped up the underway period with great port calls on the islands of Saipan and Guam. December will remain busy, but just about everyone is leave and recharg the middle of Janu training and opera making our preser

On behalf of the sincerely wish you joyous Holiday Sea

Seasons Greetings,

As the holiday season approaches, most people turn their hearts towards home. Whether you are able to be with family or not this holiday season, stop to take time to reflect. Get past the commercialism of Christmas in recent decades and look for ways to give to others selflessly, whether in physical gifts or giving of your time. For Christians, the meaning of Christmas is God's ultimate gift of his Son to Earth. Whatever your tradition is, practice the

Blessings,
Chaplain Jenkins

Congratulations to COWPENS' Newest Chief Petty Officers

HTC Button
MRC Johnson
GMC Lee
ETC Milne
GSEC Villanueva

By Experience,

By Performance,

By Testing.

In Memory

OS1 (SW) Herbert A. Craft

1973-2005

USS COWPENS mourns the loss of Operational Specialist, First Class, Surface Warfare, Herbert Andrew Craft. Though a member of the Thundering Herd for a short time, his impact was large. He challenged those around him to excel both personally and professionally. COWPENS

condolences to Petty Officer Craft's family.

Welcome to the Thundering Herd!

CTM2 Arroyo	OS2 Dover	STG2 Hite	ETSN McKinley	SN Robichaud	ENTN Swift
SN Ashbeck	LTJG Downes	GSMFN Hobbs	PSSN McKnight	ENTN Robinson	DCFN Torres
EM1 Belin	CS2 Dykers	FC2 Holm	CTTSN Miller	ET2 Sain	FC2 Tucker
ET2 Behimino	FC3 Felger	ENS Humberd	PSSN Nash	DCFN Sanchez	SN Wong
SN Boham	EM3 Fowler	SN Hurd	PS2 Oneth	LTJG Santana	DCFN Worden
LTJG Bollinger	STGSN Grice	FCC Knetzger	CSC Pascual	FC3 Santiago	GSE2 Yawn
GMSN Branum	GSMFN Guevara	IC2 Kraker	SN Ramboyong	DCFN Scruggs	
EM2 Clark	GSMFN Halderson	GSCS Jimenez	ETC Riggins	FC2 Sears	

Happy Trails to You

SK1 Atienzo	LT Dunn	OS2 Hines	BMSA Ignacio	QM2 Pavlow	DCC Williams
QMCM Barber	OS2 Flowers	CSC Horton	OS2 Lakeman	SK2 Pinto	YN3 Woods
FC2 Beard	GSM3 Gibson	LT Houston	GMC Lee	LT Plath	OS2 Zellars
CTT3 Bovetz	GSM3 Guzman	SKSN Keller	LTJG Meador	IT2 Quinn	
CTT3 Bycroft	CS3 Hardcastle	ET2 Kuzniar	EN2 Mitchell	STG2 Summe	
STG3 Deleonard	FC2 Harris	LT Jenkins	OS2 Osborn	SK1 Tanio	

PORT VISIT – SAIPAN

USS COWPENS spent Thanksgiving in Saipan basking in the sun and taking a well deserved rest. One highlight of the week was a home cooked meal at the Saipan VFW Post. Sailors enjoyed good drink, and even a few games of pool and darts. Snorkeling, diving, golf, and go-carts were other popular liberty activities in addition to the night life.

conversation.

New Births!

Julie Aidelaida
to
STG3 Bentley and Aireen

Michael
to
FC1 Smigel and Mika

Mia Angeni
to
EM3 Key and Tomoko

Vanessa Kaitlyn
to
ET2 Cisco and Junko